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Warning sends residents to shelters as tornado storms pass over county



Dedicated

Mrs. Catherine Stuart is shown with the dedicatory plaque installed at the Nicholas County Hospital last week. The plaque was supposed to be dedicated during the hospital dedication but failed to arrive in time. It is located in the maintenance of the facility. —Mercury photo.

A tornado-bred thunderstorm apparently split and passed to the north and south of Nicholas County Friday night while county residents waited in storm shelters and Civil Defense-designated emergency shelters.

A tornado warning was issued to Nicholas County at 9:04 p.m. Friday but county officials were at least 15 minutes ahead of the warnings and had spotters at strategic points and the Nicholas County Hospital on alert.

At 7:20 p.m. Friday a tornado watch was issued for Nicholas County. By 8:30 news of a tornado passing through Georgetown had already been relayed to both Bourbon and Harrison Counties where a tornado alert.

Funnel clouds were later reported by Kentucky State Police west of Cynthiana and at Clayville on the Harrison — Robertson line. The warning was extended to Mason and Robertson Counties and for a time Robertson County was cut off from communications with the state emergency operations center.

A tornado had passed through Shelby County earlier Friday evening. But Nicholas was spared the brunt of the storm, which sent hail and big winds into Clark and Morgan counties.

Another band of storms hammered the Boyle and Mercer County area. That storm could be seen in the skies to the south while the other system passed over Nicholas.

Central Kentucky hit
The watch was issued at 7:20 p.m. for the central Kentucky area. Nicholas

Civil Defense Director Russell Bell, who coordinates communications during an emergency, left his home for the Carlisle City Building, which is Nicholas County's emergency operations center.

Bell was joined there around 8 p.m. by Mayor Bill Power, County Judge Executive Jesse Soud, in the fields on his farm when called, arrived shortly.

The three men compose a committee that makes the decision in case of emergency. When news of the Georgetown tornado was received, the city and county began preparations for what ever may happen.

Persons in the two mobile home parks at each end of town were informed of the storm and told they should seek shelter. By this time, the NOAA weather radios were coming on and issuing the warnings. Bell said they had already heard the warning on NOAA when state police at Fry Ridge and the National Weather Service passed the word.

Part of the preliminary preparations included moving the patients at the hospital into the halls for better protection and activating the stand by generator.

Spotters
Constable Ronald McDonald of Headquarters had driven into Carlisle to report and immediately returned to Headquarters, where he acted as a spotter and manned a communications post. At the time the brunt of the storm seemed to pass through Harrison and into Robertson in a northeasterly

direction. Carlisle Police Chief Allen Earlywine manned a spotter's post at the National Guard Armory, which was also designated a stand by medical center.

The warning came at 5:04 p.m. The warnings over police public address systems were repeated at the trailer parks and Deputy Sheriff Ralph Brackshire alerted the Moorefield area. The edge of the other storm was on the far side of Moorefield.

Carlisle Fire Chief Hobday Burnett and Nicholas County Fire and Rescue Squad Chief Woody Wilson had also reported with their squads and were busy alerting the town.

Shortly after the warning was given by the state emergency operations center called and said they had lost contact with Mt. Olivet. The Robertson County city doesn't have a Civil Defense and the phones were out. Three volunteers helped Mt. Olivet and a CB link was set up with Ralph Sampson at Blue Lake.

The phones at Mt. Olivet were dead for approximately an hour and then restored. Earlier reports of a tornado hitting down in Mt. Olivet were unfounded.

In all, with the potential of the storm system that passed over the night, funnel touchdowns were rare. The storm was described as "surging" to tornado cells and in Shelby County, one apparently touched ground but for the most part the damages were caused by the high winds and lightning, not the

Please turn to page 5

Carnival time!

Ewing-Fleming Fair begins next Monday

The Ewing-Fleming County Fair and Horse Show gets under way next Monday, July 9 with a special invitation to Nicholas County girls aged 15-20 to enter the Miss County Fair contest.

The annual fair will run through Saturday, July 14 and will include a pony pull, horse show, beef show, dairy, swine carcass show, antique car show, baby show, draft horse show and motorcycle daredevil show.

Action begins way Monday with the daredevil show at 8 p.m. Tuesday will

see the pony pull and draft horse show. Wednesday features the beauty contest, swine show and beef show.

The horse show will run Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The dairy show is scheduled for Thursday with the antique car show and Senior Citizens Day set for Friday. The horse show championship and baby show will be held Saturday.

The beauty contest is open to girls aged 15-20 from Fleming, Mason, Robertson, Nicholas, Bath and Bracken

Counties in Kentucky and Brown County in Ohio.

The contestants will show first in swim suits and next in formal attire. There will be no labor competition and the girls will not answer any questions. The winner, runner-up and Miss Congeniality will be chosen by judges from counties other than those represented in the contest.

The contestants will be judged on figure, beauty, general appearance and personality. The first three winners will

receive prizes and each contestant will receive a gift from the Fair company.

A Little Miss and Little Mister Fair contest is also scheduled. The contestants must be aged from 6-8 and anyone from the same counties as the beauty contest is eligible.

The Ewing-Fleming County Fair is planned and conducted according to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture regulations for use of state funds. Open classes are open to all exhibitors and 4-H and FFA classes are open to Fleming County members only.

Please turn to page 3

Big John Strong's circus coming tomorrow

More than 30 years ago the Big John Strong Circus was born on October 30, 1948. Since that time John A. Strong has been a leader in bringing the best in family entertainment from coast to coast.

Born on August 14, 1920 in Jamestown, New York, John Augustus Strong remembers Lucille Ball as a childhood playmate. His father, John, Sr., was a juggler in circus and vaudeville. Freda, his mother, is known for having been able to simultaneously pop corn and operate two cotton candy machines, one with each hand.

As a child, John sold balloons and cotton candy at parades in his western New York hometown. At the age of eleven he invested his boyhood savings in a small tent and became proprietor of his first sideshow.

"The first act I ever hired, Ray Wilsey, was incredible," Big John laughs. "He did everything. He even ate light bulbs."

It has been a long and twisting journey for the young balloon vendor from Jamestown who would one day stand in the center ring of his own circus. His drive to be the best in the business sustained him from his teens to his twenties. He traveled from the east coast to the west, from vaudeville to motion pictures.

"There I was, working with stars like Robert Young and Charles Laughton in movies like 'Caterville Ghost' and 'The Falcon in San Francisco,'" Big John remembers, "and I just wasn't happy until I left it all and bought a used truck and a 40 X 60' tent. I had a dog and a goat and my freedom."

A performance of the 1948 Big John Strong Trained Animal Show lasted twenty minutes. In those days Big John

set up the tent himself, clowned, juggled, did magic and announced. Somehow he found time to book the show, and now, after thirty years, he has established a route that criss-

crosses over thirty-five thousand miles from coast-to-coast in just over eight months, from mid-March to late October.

"With success have come added

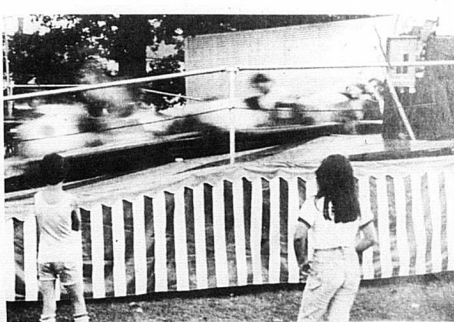
responsibilities. "Besides my circus I produce Christmas shows nationwide," Big John informs, "and an indoor magic show that travels from California to the Rockies."

Please turn to page 3



Circus time

The Big John Strong Circus is coming to town this Friday, July 6 at the Carlisle-Nicholas County Recreation Park. The circus is sponsored by the Carlisle-Nicholas County Jaycees and will feature two performances, at 6 and 8 p.m. —Photos submitted.



Festival begins

The 31st Blackberry Festival began Monday evening with the presentation of the queen candidates and the opening of the midway. The queens will be crowned tonight (Thursday) at 8 p.m. and the festival will continue through Saturday. —Mercury photo

5

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5